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\*Admitted only in Virginia  
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Federal Agencies

May 19, 2003

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**Technology Center 2600**

**WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:**

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**Art Unit: 2661**

**Confirmation No.: 4790**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application,  
Appl. No. 09/783,405; Filed: February 15, 2001  
For: **System and Method for Suppressing Silence in Voice Traffic Over an  
Asynchronous Communication Medium**  
Inventors: Gummalla *et al.*  
Our Ref: 1875.0430001/RES/MAM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Form PTO-1449 with twelve (12) accompanying documents; and
3. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Molly A. McCall  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 46,126

RES/MAM/tc  
Enclosures

SKGF\_DC1:126855.1

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Gummalla *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/783,405

Filed: February 15, 2001

For: **System and Method for  
Suppressing Silence in Voice  
Traffic Over an Asynchronous  
Communication Medium**

Confirmation No. 4790

Art Unit: 2661

Examiner: *To be assigned*

Atty. Docket: 1875.0430001

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**Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☐ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- ☒ 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- ☐ 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
  - ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
  - ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more

than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

- ☐ c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form **[OR]** Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:
  - ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
  - ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☒ 5. The documents were cited in search reports by foreign patent offices in counterpart foreign applications. Copies of the search reports are enclosed as documents AS1, AT1 and AS2 on the attached PTO-1449 Form.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☐ 7. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C.

§ 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R.  
§ 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Molly A. McCall  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 46,126

Date: May 19, 2003

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SKGF Rev. 12/1802 mac; Rev. 03/14/03 svb



FORM PTO-1449

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTATTY. DOCKET NO.  
1875.0430001APPLICATION NO.  
09/783,405APPLICANT  
Gummalla *et al.*FILING DATE  
February 15, 2001GROUP  
2661**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA1	5,631,908	05/1997	Saxe			
	AB1	5,850,400	12/1998	Eames <i>et al.</i>			
	AC1	5,926,478	07/1999	Ghaibeh <i>et al.</i>			
	AD1						
	AE1						
	AF1						
	AG1						
	AH1						
	AI1						
	AJ1						
	AK1						

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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL1	0 774 848 A2	05/1997	Europe	H04L	12/56	Yes No
	AM1	0 829 986 A1	03/1998	Europe	H04L	12/56	Yes No
	AN1	WO 99/18718	04/1999	PCT	H04N	5/00	Yes No
	AO1	WO 99/30449	06/1999	PCT	H04H	1/02	Yes No
	AP1						Yes No

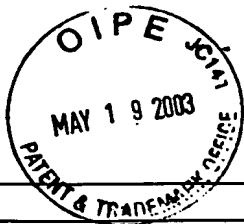
**OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

	AR	1	Limb, J. and Sala, D., "An Access Protocol to Support Multimedia Traffic over Hybrid Fiber/Coax Systems," <i>Proceedings of the International Workshop on Community Networking Integrated Multimedia Services to the Home</i> , June 20, 1995, pages 35-40.
	AS	1	Copy of International Search Report for Appln. No. PCT/US01/04820, issued September 27, 2001, 8 pages.
	AT	1	Copy of International Search Report for Appln. No. PCT/US01/04904, issued November 8, 2001, 4 pages.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.



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Gummalla *et al.*FILING DATE  
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EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA1						
	AB1						
	AC1						
	AD1						
	AE1						
	AF1						
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	AH1						
	AI1						
	AJ1						
	AK1						

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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL1						Yes No
	AM1						Yes No
	AN1						Yes No
	AO1						Yes No
	AP1						Yes No

**OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

	AR	<u>2</u>	Sala, D. <i>et al.</i> , "Adaptive Control Mechanism for Cable Modem MAC Protocols," <i>Proceedings of the IEEE INFOCOM</i> , IEEE, Vol. 3, March 29, 1998, pages 1392-1399.
	AS	<u>2</u>	Copy of International Search Report for Appln. No. PCT/US01/04819, issued September 28, 2001, 7 pages.
	AT	<u>2</u>	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.